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BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1960

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T. C. FALCONER
M.B., Ch.B, D.P.H.

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T. C. FALCONER
M.B., Ch.B, D.P.H.

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Boldon Urban District Council

1960

Chairman

Councillor S. Robinson.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor L. Hannah.

MEMBERS

Boldon Colliery Ward

Coun. Mrs. M. A. Simpson
Coun. J. R. Pears

New Town (Boldon Coliery) Ward

Coun. M. C. Bell, J.P.
Coun. O. Clark
Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson

East Boldon

Coun. J. J. Egglishaw
Coun. D. S. Hewet

West Boldon Ward

Coun. Mrs. H. L. Calvert

Whitburn Ward

Coun. S. Robinson
Coun. M. Hannah
Coun. L. Hannah

Whitburn Colliery Ward

Coun. W. Easton

Cleadon Ward

Coun. T. Brown
Coun. J. Tate

UNITED DISTRICTS OF JARROW, HEBBURN, FELLING AND BOLDON

Coun. L. Hannah
Coun. Mrs. M. Simpson
Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson
Coun. Mrs. H. L. Calvert

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
No. 5 AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE.

Coun .O. Clark
Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson
Coun. L. Hannah

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
East Boldon.
June, 1961.

Telephone: Boldon 7241/2.

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Boldon Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health of the Urban District and the work in the Health Department for the year 1960.

The Health Statistics are set out in detail in the body of the report: there are, however, certain features on which I should like to comment.

The population of the Urban District rose during the year by 580 to 20,810; the natural increase i.e. excess of births over deaths, was 210. The birth rate showed an increase to 20.6 compared with 18.2 in 1959; the standardised birth rate (i.e. corrected for age and sex distribution of the population) was 18.9 which exceeds the national figure for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate showed a decrease to 18.6 compared with the previous year and was less than the national rate for England and Wales which was the lowest ever recorded.

The death rate of 10.5 showed a slight decrease compared with 1959 and the standardised death rate of 12.7 exceeded slightly that for England and Wales. Heart disease was again the principal cause of death; respiratory disease is also an important cause of death especially amongst men. This may well be associated with occupation and smoking habits. I am glad to be able to report that there were no deaths from Tuberculosis.

The Urban District was unusually free from infectious diseases during 1960 with only 29 cases notified; further reference to this is made on pp. 29 et, seq.

On page 11 will be found a summary of the principal statistics of the United Districts of Jarrow, Hebburn, Felling and Boldon of which I am Medical Officer of Health. The total population shown as 107,000 is based on the Registrar Generals latest estimates; provisional 1961 census figures, although these show no substantial change in the population of the Urban District, indicate that the total population of the United Districts is now approximately 111,000.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from Chairmen, Members of the Council, other Officials and my staff in the Health Department.

T. C. FALCONER,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres—7,640.
Estimated resident population—20,810.
Number of inhabited houses—7,200.
Number of Council houses—2,349.
Number of Council houses erected during the year—16.
Number of private houses erected during the year—191.
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1960—£217,906.
Sum represented by a penny rate—£801 14s. 9d.

(b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL

1. Description of the Area

The Urban District covers an area of 7,640 acres and is essentially rural in character with more than 50 farms or other agricultural premises. It forms a green belt between South Tyneside and North Wearside and is roughly rectangular in shape extending inland from the North Sea coast for a distance of over six miles. In this setting there are the following five communities, Whitburn, Cleadon, East Boldon, West Boldon and Boldon Colliery; the last of these is largely industrial and accommodates approximately one third of the total population of the Urban District. The remainder of the Urban District is to a large extent residential and many of the inhabitants are employed outside the district.

2. Employment.

Mr. J. Smith, Manager of the Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied the following information relating to Employment, Unemployment and Disablement.

MAIN INDUSTRIES

Building and Contracting, Coalmining, Electrical repairs, Farming, Light Engineering, Paint and Bituminous Products, Road Transport, Stores (Departmental), Tarmacadam Manufacture.

There are 46 employers in the Urban District with 5 or more employees.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In December, 1960, the position was as follows:—

	Total on Register	Temporarily Stopped
Females	28	0
Males	78	1
Totals	106	1

DISABLEMENT

There are 173 males and 15 females on the register of disabled persons. This shows a decline of about 30 during the last five years. Of the 13 unemployed disabled persons 10 males and 2 females were suitable for open industry and 1 male for sheltered employment only. These figures have remained static for some time.

All the above figures are in respect of persons over 18 years of age.

(c) EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Estimated mid-year 20,810.

Live Births:

	M.	F.	Total
Total	235	194	429
Legitimate	229	192	421
Illegitimate	6	2	8
Birth Rate		20.6	
Comparability Factor		0.92	
Standardised Birth Rate		19.0	

Still Births:

	M.	F.	Total
Total	6	3	9
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per thousand total live and still births		20.5	
Rate per thousand estimated resident population		0.4	

Deaths:

	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	109	110	219
Death Rate		10.5	
Comparability Factor		1.21	
Standardised Death Rate		12.7	

Principal Causes of Death

	M.	F.	Total	% of total Deaths
Heart Disease (all types) ...	29	25	54	24.6
Cancer (all types)	12	18	30	13.7
Respiratory Disease	21	9	30	13.7
Vascular disease of the Nervous System	23	26	49	22.3

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

	M.	F.	Total
Total	4	4	8
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	18.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:

	M.	F.	Total
Total	3	3	6
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

Neo-natal Death Rate

(i.e. Infant Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)

14.0

Deaths of Infants under one week of age:

	M.	F.	Total
Total	3	3	6
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

Causes of Infant Deaths

Accident	1
Congenital Malformations	1
Prematurity	5
Other	1
	8

Comparison of Vital Statistics Rates

	England & Wales	Boldon
Standardised Birth Rate	17.1*	19.0
Infant Mortality	21.7†	18.6
Still Births Rate	19.7	20.5
Standardised Death Rate	11.5	12.7

* Highest since 1949.
† Lowest ever recorded.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1960

	Male	Female	Total	Comparison with 1959	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	—	—
Diphtheria	0	0	0	—	—
Meningococcal infection	0	0	0	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	—	—
Measles	0	0	0	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	4	7	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	2	3	—	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	1	1	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	1	1	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	10	16	—	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0	2	—	1
Diabetes	0	0	0	—	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	23	26	49	14	—
Coronary disease angina	22	16	38	—	7
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	2	3	—	1
Other heart disease	6	7	13	—	—
Other circulatory disease	3	9	12	6	—
Influenza	0	2	2	1	—
Pneumonia	4	3	7	—	4
Bronchitis	13	3	16	2	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	0	1	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	0	0	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostrate	2	0	2	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0	0	—	—
Congenital malformations	0	2	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	14	20	3	—
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	0	2	1	—
All other accidents	4	5	9	7	—
Suicide	2	1	3	3	—
Homicide and Operations of War ...	0	0	0	—	1
	109	110	219	41	38

Vital Statistics for Previous Years

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births
1956	18,390	17.9	11.9	9.1
1957	18,960	20.2	12.1	28.7
1958	19,540	20.4	12.6	17.5
1959	20,230	18.2	11.9	21.7
1960	20,810	20.6	10.5	18.6

SUMMARY OF UNITED DISTRICTS' STATISTICS 1960.

General	Jarrow	Hebburn	Felling	Boldon	Joint Area 1960
Population	29,250	24,290	32,650	20,810	107,000
Area in acres ...	1,970	1,563	3,325	7,640	14,498
No. of inhabited houses	9,166	7,862	10,943	7,200	35,171
No. of Council houses	4,599	3,551	6,443	2,349	16,942
Sub standard houses remaining to be dealt with by 1965 ...	800	154	169	50	1,173
Vital					
No. of Births	577	545	710	429	2,261
Standardised Birth Rate	17.9	19.9	19.6	19.0	19.0
No of Still Births ...	14	15	25	9	63
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	23.7	26.8	34.0	20.5	27.1
Infant Deaths ...	12	15	18	8	53
Infant Mortality Rate	20.8	27.5	25.4	18.6	23.4
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.4
No. of Deaths ...	362	254	358	219	1,193
Standardised Death Rate	15.2	14.1	15.3	12.7	14.5
Principal Causes of Death (Percentage of Total Deaths)					
(a) **Infants under 1 Year**					
Infection	8.3	—	11.1	—	5.7
Congenital deformity	41.7	20.0	50.0	12.5	34.0
Prematurity ...	8.3	46.7	33.3	62.5	35.8
Diseases of the New-born	16.7	—	—	—	3.8
Others	25.0	33.3	5.6	25.0	20.7
(b) **All Ages**					
Heart Disease ...	35.4	26.4	28.7	24.6	29.5
Cancer	16.0	23.2	18.4	13.7	17.9
Respiratory disease	14.4	13.4	14.6	13.7	14.1
Vascular disease ...	13.5	13.8	13.7	22.3	15.3
Comparability factors:					
Births	.91	.89	.90	.92	.90
Deaths	1.23	1.35	1.40	1.21	1.30

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Staff of Health Department

Medical Officer of Health—
T. C. FALCONER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector—
R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Shorthand-Typist—
Mrs. L. SLATER.

Rodent Operator—
N. C. SPOUR.

2. Laboratory Services.

Examinations are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Public Health Laboratory, Hylton Road, Sunderland. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1960, are as follows:—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Faeces			
Clostridium Welchii ...	28	11	39*
Shigella Sonnei	2	2	4
Sputum	0	0	0
Throat	0	0	0
	30	13	43

* Hospital Outbreak.

3. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47—**Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.**

It was not necessary for the Council to take any action under this section. During the year a number of cases were investigated by the Medical Officer of Health and, where necessary, admission to Hospital or Hostel was arranged, or the services of a home help were provided.

Section 50—**Burial or Cremation of Dead.**

No action was necessary during the year.

(b) LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III, the Personal Health Services are provided by Durham County Council and administered through the Area Health Sub-Committee on which Boldon U.D.C. is represented by three members.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(Section 22)

Ante-Natal

Sessions: Alternate Tuesday mornings at the P.M. Schoolroom, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery.

Thursday Afternoons at the Barnes Institute, Whitburn.

The following figures show the number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinics, and the number of visits which these mothers paid to the Clinics.

Number of Mothers	182
Attendances	1,037

Child Welfare

Sessions: Alternate Tuesday afternoons at the P.M. Schoolroom, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery.

Monday afternoons at the Congregational Church Hall, East Boldon.

Thursday mornings at the Barnes Institute, Whitburn.

The following table shows the number of infants and toddlers who attended the Clinic, and the number of attendances of these children throughout the year.

No. of Children			Attendances		
Under 1	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	Under 1	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.
242	202	148	2,701	391	219

MIDWIFERY

(Section 23)

There are 3 County Midwives in Boldon. No midwives practice privately in the area.

During the year they attended 222 confinements, which represents 50.7 per cent of all registered live and still births.

Domiciliary Confinements

Doctor.	Booked.	Not Booked.	Analgesia. Gas and Air.	Pethedine.
Present at Delivery	156	—	11	105
Not present at Delivery	66	—	18	39
Total	222	—	29	144

HEALTH VISITING

Four health visitors serve the Urban District. The following domilciliary visits paid during 1960:—

Maternity and Child Welfare	7,092
Tuberculosis	321
Mental Deficiency	168
Schools	279
General Health	13
Old People	146
	8,019

The percentage of ineffective visits made was 11.2%.

HOME NURSING
(Section 25).

Two whole-time nurses were employed during the year.

	No. of Cases	Visits
Medical	213	9,570
Surgical	38	980
Tuberculosis	2	120
Maternal complications ...	—	—
Infectious diseases	—	—
Others	—	54
	253	10,724

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION
(Section 26)

The following tables give the numbers of children vaccinated and immunised at the clinics and by General Practitioners in the district:—

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Under 1 year	1-4	5-15	15 & Over	Total	1-14	15 & Over	Total
188	12	9	19	228	5	140	45

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Primary Immunisations				Re-inforcing injections		
Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total
2	—	—	2	15	14	29

DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Primary Immunisations				Re-inforcing injections		
Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total
181	32	—	213	12	21	33

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Primary Immunisations				Re-inforcing injections		
Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total
4	1	—	5	—	1	1

IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

2 Injections

Children born in the years 1943-60 ...	608
Young persons born in the years 1933-42	256
Others	152
	1,016

This includes 957 by General Practitioners

3 Injections

Total	2,403

This includes 1,492 by General Practioners.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

(Section 27)

The Urban District is served by the Hebburn Depot at Ushaw Road, telephone 832157.

The Depot is manned by a clerk-telephonist from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the remaining 16 hours of the day calls are received by the driver on duty who passes them on to the Co-ordinating Control near Durham.

The Hebburn Depot serves the population in the Borough of Jarrow, the Urban Districts of Felling, Hebburn, Boldon and Washington, and part of Sunderland Rural District.

The following table gives a summary of the year's work:—

HEBBURN DEPOT.

	Persons carried			
Journeys	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	Mileage
8,281	5,960	23,172	29,132	158,539

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE, AND AFTER-CARE

(Section 28)

Cases discharged from hospital and requiring after-care are treated by home nurses or supervised and advised by the Health Visitors. Sick room equipment such as urine bottles, bed pans, bed-rests, air cushions, mattresses and rubber sheeting can be had on loan.

During the year 38 persons received equipment on loan.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

(Section 29)

No. of home helps employed during the year	40
No. of cases attended at 1-1-60	69
No. of new cases provided with home helps	21
No. of cases attended at 31.12.60	83
Type of cases—	
Old Age Pensioners	79
Sickness	8
Tuberculosis	—
Maternity	3
	90

MENTAL HEALTH

LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS

No. of cases investigated	13
Admissions to Hospital	
Urgency Order	—
Certified Patients	—
3-Day Orders	8
14-Day Orders	—
Relapse on trial	—
Escape and Recapture	—
Voluntary Patients	3
Temporary Patients	—
Section 30 Magistrates' Court Act, 1952	—
Total ...	11

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS

Under supervision and guardianship ...	37
in Institutions	15
Total ...	52

EDUCATION ACT

Children Notified during year	
as (a) Ineducable	—
(b) Requiring supervision after leaving school	3
Total ...	3

(c) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The only hospital situated in the Urban District is Boldon Hospital which caters for Geriatic and Chronic Sick Cases; there are 10 female beds and 22 male beds. There are no direct admissions but only transfers from other hospitals, principally the General Hospital, Sunderland, following preliminary assessment.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

The following numbers of patients were treated at the Sunderland, South Shields and Newcastle Clinics during 1960.

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Non-Venereal	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sunderland	—	1	3	—	6	3
South Shields	—	—	—	—	2	1
Newcastle	—	—	—	—	2	—

MASS X-RAY

No. 2 Mass Radiography Unit of the Newcastle Regional Board makes frequent visits to South Tyneside.

The following table gives details of the work done by the Unit in the district:—

I am indebted to Dr. Marienfeld for the following statistics.

	Total No. of Films	Total Referred Chest Clinic	Notified "Active" Tuberculosis	Not Notified
Public Session—March, 1960.				
Female	233	5	2	—
Male	394	8	—	—
Total	627	13	2	—

A new 100 m.m. X-Ray Camera was brought into use in February, 1959, thus dispensing with the need for large films.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Mr. G. Tait Hunter, the Regional Organiser, has kindly supplied details of the donor panels and the sessions in Boldon during the year.

Date of Sessions	No. of Donors attending
11th February	124
10th August	122
Donor Panel at 31/12/60	192
New donors bled during 1960	26

(d) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Urban District is served by six General Practitioners working from two single handed and two partnership practices.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

To the Medical Officer of Health,

Sir,

During 1960, environmental hygiene conditions in the Boldon Urban District Council's area continued at a high level.

Some clearance areas which had been represented were approved without modification, and a considerable number of individual demolition orders were made.

New legislation and regulations are commented upon under the various headings but changes, whilst making further work in some cases, have been absorbed in the routine of the department.

I am indebted to the Members of the Council, the Health Department clerk, and the Heads and Staff of all other departments for their willing co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

R. W. ARMSTRONG,
Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES

The district is supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.

Analysis of Water Supply

(1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year 1960.

(2) Bacteriological examinations were made during the year from the various deep well and other sources which constitute the supply, also from reservoirs and consumers' taps, and the following results were obtained:—

	No. of Samples	%Free from Non-Faecal Organisms	%Free from Faecal Organisms
Wells and other sources ...	344	88.7	99.8
Reservoirs	175	89.1	99.4
Consumers taps	174	98.3	100.0

(3) The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action.

(4) There has been no contamination and therefore no action has been necessary.

(5) There are 6,931 domestic premises connected to the Company's mains in the area.

(6) There are no stand pipes in the area.

Typical Analysis of Water Supply

Chemical Analysis	Parts per Million
Total Solids	453
Suspended Solids	—
Total Hardness	310
Permanent Hardness	60
Temporary Hardness	250
Calcium Oxide	91
Magnesium Oxide	59
Sulphur Trioxide	95
Chloride	38
Free Chloride	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates	4.0
Dissolved Oxygen	10.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	22
Iron	—
Manganese	—
Silica	6
Colour less than 5 deg. Hazen. ph value	7.6

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

6,199 yards of drains were examined during the year, nearly all being at new private dwellings built in the area, 4,097 yards less than in 1959.

The work is generally of good standard and mostly of standard glazed pipes. The amount of work carried out with pitch fibre pipes has increased considerably and so far has been found to be satisfactory in every way. The sewerage of the district appears to be quite adequate. The untreated sewage discharges to the sea and into the tidal waters of the River Tyne.

Closet Accommodation

Type of Closet	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Ash Closets	57	57	57	57	47
Water Closets	6,760	6,927	7,149	7,463	7,680
Chemical Closets ...	28	28	28	28	28

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No legal action was taken in respect of the deposit of material in watercourses. There are a number of ditches which have been neglected for many years, and the natural silting up and growth of bushes etc. have made them very inefficient. Attempts made to persuade farmers through whose land such ditches run, to clear and regrade them were without success.

SCHOOLS

No complaints were received about the sanitary condition of schools in the district. Several schools were treated for the destruction of rats or mice with good results.

Water supplies in schools are all from service mains of the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company and are satisfactory.

It was not necessary to take any special action in respect of infectious disease in school children.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on Sunderland Corporation tip which is just outside the southern boundary of the district.

PIG STYES

Complaints were received about smells emanating from commercial pig farms. In all cases it was found to be due to the boiling of swill with the escaping steam carrying away the odours. The farmers were advised as to the best ways to avoid this and since then no justifiable complaint had been received.

STABLES

There is one farm in the area used as stables for a riding school, and it is well managed and kept clean.

POULTRY, ETC.

Several visits were made to houses etc. about the keeping of poultry and pets, and in one case a nuisance was found which was remedied on request.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The model byelaw requiring new buildings to be fitted with apparatus capable of burning smokeless fuel has been in operation for some time, with good results. Many new houses are being fitted with oil, gas, or electric heating systems, but the coke fire boiler seems to be the most popular means of heating and hot water supply.

The few industrial premises which use coal cause little smoke, and no official warnings have been issued.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

There are no registered premises within the Urban District at which upholstering or stuffing of flock filled articles is carried on.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No statutory action has been found to be necessary under the sections enforceable by the Council during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises within the Urban District registered as a pet shop for the sale of pet animals.

PESTS ACT, 1949

The district is remarkably free from infestation of rats and mice. The complaints received are in nearly every case only of one rat and small infestations of mice.

Annual test baiting of the sewer manholes was not carried out. Due to surcharging of the sewers it was decided to await drier weather.

Private houses are treated at the request of the occupier free of charge; whilst business premises are charged the actual cost of the treatment.

The total number of premises treated was 11 more than in 1959.

One man is employed part time on rodent control work, and I wish to record my appreciation of the way he carried out the work with a minimum of supervision, and in a very thorough and conscientious manner.

The table below is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul-ural	All Other	Total
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	18	7047	66	204	7335
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1960 as a result of:—					
(a) notification	—	56	—	10	66
(b) survey or otherwise ...	4	29	—	7	40
(c) otherwise	2	15	27	2	46
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats ... ... (Major)	—	—	—	—	—
(Minor)	4	40	—	11	55
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice	2	42	—	6	50
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	6	82	—	7	105
Number of Notices served under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

Factory Acts, 1937 and 1959

169 visits were made to premises registered as factories in the district.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health made by Public Health Inspector.

	Number on Register	In-spections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities ...	2	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	103	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ... ... (excluding outworker's premises).	17	39	—	—
Total	59	169	2	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want ofCleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	4	4	—	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year 32 visits were made in connection with the investigation and control of contagious disease, and arrangements made for the disinfection of the houses and bedding either on removal of the patient to hospital or on recovery.

SHOPS ACT, 1950 — SECTIONS 38 AND 72

A total of 272 visits were made to shops in the district not all of which come within the Acts provisions. No formal action was taken, but additional heating facilities and repairs to sanitary accommodation were carried out on informal requests.

SECTION D

HOUSING

In 1960 two small clearance areas one at North Lane, East Boldon, and the other at Gateshead Terrace, West Boldon were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government without modification. Also seven individual demolition orders were made by the Council upon unfit houses and one Council owned property was declared unfit.

In the twelve months 63 persons in 17 families had been rehoused and further rehousing will take place at a steady speed in the near future.

During the year 37 houses have been demolished.

Little action was taken under the repair section of the Housing Act, 1957 as the procedure is cumbersome, and open to difficulties in recovering the cost in cases of work done in default on the grounds of reasonableness. It is noteworthy that under the Rent Act 1957 the reasonableness of repair costs are not of great importance. Most of the repair work carried out was done under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act but some properties were repaired as a result of representation under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Council have actively encouraged the issue of grants for the improvement of houses and up to date 76 have been paid; 69 of these were discretionary and 7 were standard.

It is unfortunate that Local Authorities are not given powers to enforce the improvement of suitable houses; providing grants and lending money where necessary, as we have "improved" houses adjoining properties which are neglected and deteriorating rapidly, and in which Councils can only enforce the low standards of Section 4 of the Housing Act 1957.

Under Public Health Acts

Number of houses inspected	112
Number of visits made	284

Under Housing Acts

Number of houses inspected	93
Number of visits made	183
Cases of overcrowding investigated	5
Number of new houses built and occupied during the year	207
Total number of visits made in connection with the above	469

Total number of houses closed voluntarily by the owner	—
Number of houses unfit for human habitation in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner	—
Number of houses found to require repair under the Public Health Acts	17
Number of houses found to require repair under the Housing Act	8
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act after formal notices by the local authority ...	5
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the local authority ...	1
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action	10
Houses at which other matters were remedied under the Public Health Act	9
Total number of defects	106

SECTION E

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

452 visits were made to the 126 premises in the district in which food is prepared, stored or sold. The standard of most of these premises is good. They are roughly classified as follows, but certain businesses deal in one or more main lines.

Confectioners	9	Fresh Fish	3
Butchers	13	Fish Fryers	4
Cafes	3	Grocers	47
Canteen and Kitchen ...	4	Greengrocers	11
Chemists	5	Sweets	11
Licensed Premises ...	16		

Forty-five premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act as follows:—

Bakers	5	Butchers	13
Fish Fryers	4	Ice Cream	23

in addition, 34 premises mostly small general dealers are registered as distributors of milk, but no premises are registered as dairies.

During the year, 176 visits have been made to the above mentioned registered premises, the majority of inspections being confined to butchers and bakers establishments.

Competition between the traders aids in the improvement of premises and equipment, and consequently in maintaining a good standard of hygiene.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960

These new regulations which came into force on the 1st October are little different to those of 1955. The main points are that now they apply to vessels carrying passengers, and washing facilities can now only be demanded on vehicles from which a catering business is conducted.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

There are 29 Dealers' licences in force for the sale of milk in the district. In all these instances the milk is sold in the closed and unopened containers in which it is received by the dealer.

There are no dairies registered.

After the end of the year County Districts are no longer responsible for the issue of licences for distributors of milk as they will be issued by County Councils only. It seems curious therefore that local authorities must still keep registers of distributors under the regulations of 1959 which are still in force.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

There are no slaughterhouses licenced to operate in this district. The report submitted to the Minister of Agriculture stated that in the Council's opinion there are adequate facilities in adjoining districts, and this was accepted by the Ministry.

MEAT INSPECTION

Only small quantities of meat in butchers shops have been inspected; usually at the request of the butcher, and in all about 345 lbs. have been condemned as unfit for food, and voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

OTHER FOODS

No difficulty is encountered in securing the surrender and destruction of foodstuffs which are unfit for human consumption. Most of the tradesmen seek my advice on any food which is doubtful and willingly surrender any which is unfit. All the businesses are retail and it has not been necessary to examine any very large stocks of food.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and destroyed:—

4	Tins of	Chopped Pork.
4	do.	Pineapple.
4	do.	Creamed Rice.
3	do.	Stewed Steak.
1	do.	Salmon.
3	do.	Prunes.
1	do.	Carrots.
3	do.	Golden Syrup.
4	do.	Peaches.
3	do.	Fruit Salad.
9	do.	Shrimps.
14	do.	Pears.
84	do.	Tomatoes.
11	do.	Tongue.
25	do.	Peas.
18	do.	Corned Beef.
10	do.	Baked Beans.
10	do.	Ham.
15	do.	Luncheon Meat.
33	do.	Evaporated Milk.
1	jar of	Chicken.
16	lb. of	Cheese.
6	do.	Bacon.
2	do.	Suet.
1	do.	Egg and Pork Pie.
3	do.	Pork Brawn.
8	do.	Madeira Cake.
14	do.	Jellied Veal.
18		Fish Cakes.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Durham County Council are the responsible authority for the administration of the sections of the Food and Drugs Act which deal with adulteration and abstraction of substances from food. The Weights and Measures Department carry out the duties of Sampling Officers and during the year 1960, 71 samples were taken of which 26 were of milk. Four cautionary letters were sent about different foodstuffs.

PETROLEUM ACTS 1928

31 visits were made during the year and there are now 26 licensed premises in the district.

The Durham County Fire Prevention Department advised on the condition of every storage place, and each licencee was requested to comply with the Departments recommendations.

Two new tanks were installed and all the other work was done, but in two cases only after the withdrawal of the licence was threatened.

SECTION F

Report of the Medical Officer of Health on Prevalence and Control of Infectious and Other Diseases.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1960 was only 29 compared with 329 during the previous year. This decrease was largely accounted for by the substantial drop of 287 in Measles Notifications. There was also a decrease in the incidence of Whooping Cough with only 3 cases notified during the year.

Measles

The usual biennial epidemic pattern was maintained and there were no notifications of Measles during the year 1960 compared with 287 in 1959. Subsequent experience to date has proved 1961 to be another epidemic year as expected.

Whooping Cough

Only 3 cases were notified during 1960 compared with 13 during the previous year. This low incidence must not, however, be permitted to give rise to complacency with regard to immunisation against this disease, which is offered by both General Practitioners and Local Authority Clinics. Immunisation, especially of very young children in whom the disease can be serious, is a most important public health measure. It is not generally realised amongst mothers that this disease is most infectious during the early catarrhal stage **before** the paroxysmal "whooping' cough appears, after which communicability gradually decreases.

Dysentery

There were 7 cases of Dysentery notified during 1960 compared with 5 cases during the previous year. Sonnei Dysentery continued to be endemic on Tyneside and the relatively mild nature of the symptoms results in many undiagnosed cases perpetuating the infection.

Food Poisoning

Only 1 case of Food Poisoning was notified during 1960. Earlier in the year, there occurred in a Local Hospital, an outbreak of what at first appeared to be Dysentery. Subsequent investigation, however, proved the disease to be Food Poisoning caused by Heat Resistant Clostridium Welchii. A most careful investigation failed to establish the precise cause of this outbreak and the general standard of hygiene and catering in the Hospital was beyond criticism.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1960

Diseases	All Ages									Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Total Notified 1960	Total Notified 1959	Increase or Decrease in 1960
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and Over					
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	—	1	—	9	13	—4
Tuberculosis, non-respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	2	—
Dysentery	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	3	—	7	5	+2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	—2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	22	2	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	+1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	13	—10
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	287	—287
Total	—	1	5	6	—	1	9	5	2	5	22	29	329	—300

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Summary for five pear period 1956 - 1960

Notifiable Diseases	Population	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
1956	18,390	—	—	1	18	5	—	6	—	2	38	3	—	—
1957	18,960	—	—	6	14	2	—	5	1	341	32	1	—	14
1958	19,540	1	—	7	9	2	—	1	—	5	20	1	—	4
1959	20,230	—	—	7	13	2	—	2	1	287	13	—	—	5
1960	20,810	—	—	5	9	2	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	7

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year, 11 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 9 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. No Deaths occurred from Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1960

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	—	—	—	—				
1 to 4	—	—	—	—				
5 to 14	—	—	—	—				
15 to 24	1	—	—	—				
25 to 34	1	4	—	1				
35 to 44	—	2	—	1			Nil.	
45 to 54	—	—	—	—				
55 to 64	1	—	—	—				
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—				
Totals ...	3	6	—	2				